GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3191
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
TIES WITH IRAN
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have agreed to set up joint working groups to review political and economic co-operation at the bilateral and regional level and establish research centres on culture and world affairs;

(b) whether the Foreign Secretary had discussions with Iran`s Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia Pacific Affairs during his visit to Iran;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details of areas thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)
(a) to (d) At their meeting in February, 1999, in New Delhi, the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran directed that a process of regular and structured consultations should be established at experts` level between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran.Accordingly, discussions were held on formulating such consultations and it was decided during Foreign Secretary`s discussions with the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Tehran in July-August, 1999, that four expert level groups would be set up in the following areas : (1) Political and economic matters including bilateral and regional issues; (2) International issues; (3) Research and sectoral stud`ies on areas of mutual interests; and (4) Cooperation in culture including on Dialogue among Civilisations.

The first meetings of these groups have been held. These meetings will contribute to the larger process of political and diplomatic interaction between the two countries.